

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017GY050
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Name of Service:	gCroi Og
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Address of Service:	Newcastle Community Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H65VY31
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Flannery
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
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Inspection undertaken by:	F . Kelly.
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Title:	Early Years Inspector.
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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

gCroi Og was opened in September 2017, and provides sessional day care to pre-school children aged 3 years to 6 years. It operates from 9.15am to 12.15pm, Monday to Friday. The service also offers a service for school aged children. The service is located in Newcastle Community Centre in Athenry, Co Galway. It consists of 2 large Playrooms and a third smaller playroom and two children’s sanitary areas. The service also has access to an outdoor secured area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are 3 adults working in the service which included the registered provider

Methodology

Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well- being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11 and 19and 28 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) At the beginning of inspection, the deputy designated person in charge was on the premises but within a short period of time the registered provider arrived at the service and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 6 written and appropriately validated reference available from their most recent employer for this adult.

(b) Not applicable, as references available were from recent employers.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 3 adults.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.

(4) All adults working directly with children have obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the 20 pre-school children attending the service.
- (3) At 10 .15 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms was in operation.
Montessori room, there were 2 adults caring for 20 children.
- (8)(c) Not applicable ,as this service is not a single handled service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

- (1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*
- (a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

- The children brought their own snacks and lunch in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. The timing of the snacks was appropriate, and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The children had fruit, crackers, cheese, wraps and healthy sandwiches for the morning snacks. The children had access to their Individual drinking bottles throughout the session. The children ate their snack in the outdoor sheltered area. Each child had individual place mats and crockery plates for their snacks.
- The children's lunches were stored in the fridge on the main classroom, 2 children were observed helping a staff member bring all of the lunches in a trolley to the outdoor area at snack time.
- The children were all toilet trained and either toileted independently or with some assistance as required. The children's sanitary areas were conveniently located adjacent to the playroom which facilitated independence in toileting. When the children were playing in the outdoor play area, the children were accompanied to the sanitary area in the main building.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

The children spent a large amount of the session playing in the outdoor play area to the rear of the community hall.

- Children got the opportunity to move freely between the various areas of the outdoor play area during the period of the inspection. The staff moved around the areas and supervised, assisted and engaged with the children throughout the session. The majority of the play observed was child lead, rather than adult lead play.
- The outdoor play area has a large selection of areas to explore and such as balance beams, construction area, artificial grass area, transportation area, tarmac area for ride on toys, outdoor seating and black boards. This area had a storage shed that contained a range of toys and equipment that can be used in the outdoor area.
- The children also had an area where they sowed flower bulbs, it was conveniently located so that the children could view their progress.

- There was a sheltered area , that the children used for a range of tabletop activities. This play area was shaded from the strong sun on the day of inspection. The service had various activities such as arts and crafts, block building, seating with picture books was also available in this space.
- On the day of inspection, the group of children were observed happily playing in the outdoor area, for a long period of time. The children wore sun hats and sun protection as it was a sunny day.
- The children also have wellington boots and rain gear available in the sheltered area should they need them during bad weather.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service was adequate insured for the number of children attending the service on a daily basis.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

The following posed a risk of cross infection:

- (c)
1. The children and the staff sanitary areas were not adequately ventilated either naturally through an openable window or by means of mechanical ventilation.
 2. There was no hot running water in the children's and the staff sanitary area to effectively wash hands after outdoor play and using the toilet.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated the following:

1. The ventilation system for the staff sanitary area was cleaned and is in working order. A new ventilation system will be installed over the next few weeks and photographic evidence will be submitted once work is completed.
2. The hot water valve was replaced and the temperature was increased and is current set at 33°C . It will be monitored ,to ensure this does not happen again,

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the hot running water , that included a thermometer recording the water temperature of 33.4°C

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider addressed 1 of the 2 non compliances .

The findings documented at point 1 remains non-compliant until the new ventilation system is in place.